Amendments to the claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) A vaccine comprising at least one isolated microorganism or living or dead cells thereof wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of: (a) *Streptococcus bovis* strain SbR1 Accession number: NM99/04455, (b) *Streptococcus equinus* strain SER1 Accession number: NM99/04456, (c) *Streptococcus equinus* strain SER2 Accession number: NM99/04457, (d) *Selenomonas ruminantium* strain SRR1 Accession number: NM99/04458, (e) *Selenomonas ruminantium* strain SRR3 Accession number: NM99/04460, (f) *Clostridium vitulinus* strain LVR3 Accession number: NM99/04461, (g) *Clostridium vitulinus* strain LVR4 Accession number: NM99/04462, (h) *Prevotella* isolates LAB01 Accession number: NM00/12630, ~~and~~ (i) *Prevotella* isolate LAB03 Accession number: NM00/12632, (j) *Bacteroides* isolates LAB07 Accession number: NM00/12636, ~~and~~ (k) *Bacteroides* isolate LAB05 Accession number: NM00/12634, (l) non-dextran slime producing *Streptococcus* isolate LAB04 Accession number: NM00/12633, (m) ~~and~~ non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolates LAB02 Accession number: NM00/12631, (m) non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolate LAB06 Accession number: NM00/12635, and , (m) non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolate LAB08 Accession number: NM00/12637.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously presented) The vaccine of claim3, wherein said dead cells are intact cells.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously presented) The vaccine of claim 3, wherein the vaccine is formulated for administration via intramuscular, subcutaneous, or inhalation routes.

9 (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the vaccine composition of claim 3 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, adjuvant and/or diluent, wherein said pharmaceutical composition is effective for the prevention of lactic acidosis in said monogastric, herbivore, or ruminant animal.

10.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9, further comprising at least one cytokine.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for inducing an immune response against lactic acidosis in a vertebrate, comprising administering intramuscularly, subcutaneously, or via inhalation to said vertebrate an immunologically effective amount of the vaccine in accordance with claim 3[[,]].

17. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 16, further comprising administering at least one cytokine.

18. (Previously presented) A method for inducing an immune response against lactic acidosis in a vertebrate, comprising administering to said vertebrate an immunologically effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9.

19. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of lactic acidosis in a vertebrate in need of said treatment and/or prophylaxis, wherein said method comprises administering intramuscularly, subcutaneously, or via inhalation to said vertebrate a therapeutically effective amount of the vaccine in accordance with claim 3.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said method further comprises the administration of an active agent, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of: antibiotics, enzyme preparations, clay preparations, compounds which slow the digesta flow, prebiotics and probiotics.

21. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment and/or prophylaxis of lactic acidosis in a vertebrate in need of said treatment and/or prophylaxis, wherein said method comprises administering intramuscularly, subcutaneously, or via inhalation to said vertebrate a therapeutically effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 9.

22.-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) An isolated culture of at least one microorganism selected from the group consisting of: (a) *Streptococcus bovis* strain SbR1 Accession number: NM99/04455, (b) *Streptococcus equinus* strain SER1 Accession number: NM99/04456, (c) *Streptococcus equinus* strain SER2 Accession number: NM99/04457, (d) *Selenomonas ruminantium* strain SRR1 Accession number: NM99/04458, (e) *Selenomonas ruminantium* strain SRR3 Accession number: NM99/04460, (f) *Clostridium vitulinus* strain LVR3 Accession number: NM99/04461, (g) *Clostridium vitulinus* strain LVR4 Accession number: NM99/04462, (h) *Prevotella* isolates LAB01 Accession number: NM00/12630, ~~and~~ (i) *Prevotella* isolate LAB03 Accession number: NIM00/12632, (j) *Bacteroides* isolates LAB07 Accession number: NM00/12636, ~~and~~ (k) *Bacteroides* isolate LAB05 Accession number: NM00/12634, (l) non-dextran slime producing *Streptococcus* isolate LAB04 Accession number: NM00/12633, ~~and~~ (m) non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolates LAB02 Accession number: NM00/12631, (n) non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolate LAB06 Accession number: NM00/12635, and (o) non-slime producing lactic acid bacterial isolate LAB08 Accession number: NM00/12637.